TRICENTENNIAL

Bongo Joe was colorful street musician

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OBITUARY

'Mr. Falcon' was star at Jefferson

Tommy Nobis later went to Texas and the NFL. **C1**

San Antonio Express News / File photo

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House, Senate reach agreement on tax bill

Aaron P. Bernstein / Bloomberg

Texas GOP Sen. John Cornyn greets Rep. Kevin Brady, R-The Woodlands, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, during a House-Senate conference meeting on the Republican-led tax reform bill.

Still unclear is what the legislation will cost

By Jim Tankersley, Thomas Kaplan and Alan Rappeport
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The day after suffering a political blow in the Alabama special Senate election, congressional Republicans sped forward with the most sweeping tax rewrite in decades.

They announced an agreement on a final bill that would cut taxes for businesses and individuals and signal the party's first major legislative achievement since assuming political control this year.

President Donald Trump speaks about tax reform in Cross Hall at the White House.

Party leaders in the House and Senate agreed in principle to bridge the yawning gaps between their competing versions of the $1.5 trillion tax bill, keeping Republicans on track for final votes next week with the aim of delivering a bill to President Donald Trump by Christmas.

The House and Senate versions of the tax bill started from the same core principles — sharply cutting taxes on businesses, while reducing rates and eliminating some breaks for individuals — but diverged on several crucial details.

In the end, more of the Senate bill appeared to be included in

Tax continues on A17

Inside

» **Willett:** Texas judge confirmed to federal bench. **A7**

» **Rosenstein:** Defends Mueller's character, impartiality. **A9**

» **Minnesota:** Lt. gov to replace Franken. **A12**

Alabama race for Senate drew big Texas bucks

$700,000 went to contestants

By Jeremy Wallace
AUSTIN BUREAU

AUSTIN — No state played a bigger financial role in trying to elect Roy Moore to the U.S. Senate outside of Alabama than Texas.

Individual campaign donors from Texas combined to give the failed Republican nominee nearly as much money as contributors in California, New York and Florida combined.

Texans were responsible for just over $400,000 in donations through the end of November, according to the latest campaign finance disclosure reports. Those numbers are sure to climb as donations over the last two weeks are tallied by the campaign.

While the Republicans who rallied to help Moore were disappointed with the outcome, Democrats were delighted at their own financial re-

Alabama continues on A16

Key witness says Uresti started an affair in 2010

By Patrick Danner
STAFF WRITER

Indicted state Sen. Carlos Uresti began a sexual relationship with Denise Cantu of Harlingen — a key witness against him — as early as 2010, telling his then-client she looked "sexy," sending her lewd text messages and later consummating the friendship at a hotel room in San Antonio, she told the FBI in interview records that reveal new details of their relationship.

Uresti

Calling Cantu a "demonstrated liar," Uresti's lawyers shared FBI records with the San Antonio Express-News after federal prosecutors filed a motion under seal last week to block some expert testimony from his upcoming criminal fraud trial.

Uresti continues on A16

Even manhole covers will celebrate city's Tricentennial

By Josh Baugh
STAFF WRITER

If you happen to be wandering around downtown looking for evidence that San Antonio is about to commence celebrations of its 300th birthday, check beneath your feet.

The city is memorializing the yearlong Tricentennial celebration with limited-edition manhole covers, which will keep pedestrians from falling into holes in sidewalks long after San Antonio finishes celebrating its birthday.

San Antonio's Transportation and Capital Improvements Department has begun installing the manhole covers emblazoned with the Tricentennial Commission's 300 emblem (which looks eerily similar to logos produced for the Mexico-based 1968 Olympics and 1970 FIFA World Cup). The department is fabricating exactly 300 covers, which come in 18-, 19- and 25.5-inch diameters.

About half will be installed downtown, in the city's Central Business District. The rest are

Covers continues on A16

Juanito M. Garza / San Antonio Express-News

Just 300 of these specially marked manhole covers have been produced.

» **Flaco Jiménez:** Accordionist now on list of entertainment. **A16**

COMMENTARY *by Brian Chasnoff*

Ex-300th board leader's alarm displayed in emails

The City Council will vote today to ratify Mayor Ron Nirenberg's picks to replace two members of the Tricentennial Commission's board who stepped down last week, including its president, Robert Thrailkill.

Hopefully, the commission staff will come to value Nirenberg's recruits more than it did their predecessors.

Emails obtained by the San Antonio Express-News show that Thrailkill last year expressed increasing alarm at uncoordinated, slow-paced planning for the city's yearlong celebration of its 300th anniversary, as well as frustration at how the commission staff was ignoring the input of its five-person executive committee.

Thrailkill

Benavides

Tricentennial's CEO at the time, Edward Benavides, resigned last month, but remains on the city payroll, taking leave until the new year.

Public documents since have shown that even as he was neglecting his own volunteer

Garcia continues on A2

WEATHER

HIGH **65** LOW **45** Cloudy
Full report, C10

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